

Dear Friend:

The legislative session is upon us, which means that there is a full plate of issues for our state to address. First and foremost we will be tackling our budget shortfall and getting our finances in order.

While the governor will play a significant role in the process, the legislature is charged with crafting the state budget. This requires cooperation and compromise on everyone's part. As a member of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee, I will work hard to promote fiscal responsibility and also to protect the interests of my district.

I invite your feedback and comments. Please don't hesitate to call me at home, at the Capitol, or by e-mail. Thank you for the honor of serving as your state Senator.

Sincerely,



Bob Duff
State Senator, 25th District



BOB DUFF

Legislative Office Building, Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL PHONE: 1-800-842-1420

HOME PHONE: 840-1333

E-MAIL: Duff@senatedems.ct.gov

WEB: www.senatedems.ct.gov/Duff.html

Representing the 25th District: Norwalk & Darien

Legislative Office Building, Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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SETTING PRIORITIES IN OUR BUDGET

This year more than ever, it is important to get our fiscal house in order. The roller coaster ride of surpluses and deficits must end. It is not fair to the taxpayers of this state or those who rely on the services we provide (such as our children and our elderly). That's why I have written to the governor suggesting a new means of budgeting called "performed based budgeting." This will make our state government more efficient and hold our managers accountable for the dollars spent. I will be working hard to prioritize goals and fund what works accordingly. Programs that don't make the grade should be revamped or eliminated.

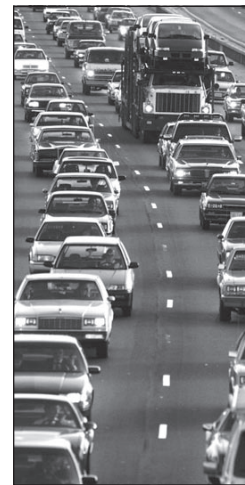
SALES TAX SHARING— KEEPING MONEY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

I will reintroduce legislation designed to allow towns across Connecticut to keep a portion of the sales tax generated within their own borders. A very important part of the bill was passed last session and I will work to gain the necessary momentum this year. Sales tax sharing helps diversify our local tax base and takes some of the reliance off of the property tax system.



TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

Among the most crucial issues facing Fairfield County are gridlock and the poor condition of our mass transit system. I will be working very closely with my colleagues from this part of the state to solve the crisis including funding for new trains, parking, and options for our overcrowded highways. The state-established Transportation Strategy Board has recently made recommendations and I plan to hold everyone's feet to the fire until these problems are solved.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG RE-IMPORTATION

Last year, I supported a bill to study the feasibility of re-importing prescription drugs from Canada for our state's pharmaceutical assistance program (ConnPACE). It is my desire to see our state move from study to implementation and help our senior citizens who have limited resources.



POWER LINE PROPOSALS

As in the past, I will be keeping a close eye on the power line applications proposed in our area. It is imperative that we all be involved. In addition, I will continue to focus on energy efficiency and conservation reforms that are critically needed in our state.